

HEALTH
7 APR 1948
72

CANNOCK URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

together with the Report of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1946

CANNOCK URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
together with the Report of the
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1946

Members of the Public Health Committee

Chairman : MR. COUNCILLOR A. HAMPTON

Vice-Chairman : MR. COUNCILLOR JOS. HAMPTON

MR. COUNCILLOR A. BAILEY

MR. COUNCILLOR F. HURMSON

MR. COUNCILLOR J. JAMES

MR. COUNCILLOR F. ROWLEY

MR. COUNCILLOR T. WHITEHOUSE

MRS. COUNCILLOR M. HOTCHKISS

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee

Chairman : MRS. COUNCILLOR M. HOTCHKISS

Vice-Chairman : MR. COUNCILLOR A. HAMPTON

All the members of the Public Health Committee, with the following co-opted Members :—

Mrs. A. Hudson

Mrs. F. Cater

Mrs. W. Ingham

Mrs. M. Rowley

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health : W. F. GAPPER, B.Sc., M.B.,
Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer : P. S. WARREN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Dental Surgeon : G. WILLIAMSON, L.D.S. (resigned February, 1946)

Dental Surgeon : N. H. SMITH, L.D.S. (appointed March, 1946)

Dental Attendant : MRS. N. T. BUTLER.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Shops Act Inspector : FRED TURNER,
C.R.S.I., Certificate of Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector : JOSEPH BALL, C.R.S.I.

Health Visitors

MRS. D. ROBINSON, C.M.B., State Registered Nurse.

MRS. S. LEACH, S.R.N. (appointed April, 1946).

MRS. M. E. VAUGHAN, S.R.N. (appointed October, 1946).

Part-Time Officers

Oculist : G. F. HAYCRAFT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.

Orthopaedic Surgeon : ERNEST A. FREEMAN, F.R.C.S., M.B., B.S.

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon : W. L. THOMAS, F.R.C.S., D.L.O.

Orthopaedic Masseuse : MISS F. M. BARNES, C.S.M.M.G.

DR. MARGARET BAMBER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Cannock
Urban District Council*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Sanitary Inspector for the year 1946. I do not propose to offer comment on this report in this introduction. The statistics are presented, but in view of the fact that I was not in this area during 1946, one does not feel disposed to discuss the contents of such a report as this without some practical and first-hand knowledge of matters in the area at the time with which the report deals. I trust, therefore, you will forgive the omission of a general commentary on the report as a whole.

On behalf of Dr. Gapper, my predecessor, who took up the position of County Medical Officer for Merionethshire in April, 1947, may I thank all members of the staff of this department for their support during the year 1946. I am sure Dr. Gapper would also have me extend to the heads of all departments of this Authority and to their staffs his thanks for their co-operation. I also wish to acknowledge the help and co-operation afforded to this area during 1946 from the County Medical Officer and his staff.

Lastly, I extend to Dr. Gapper my congratulations and sincere good wishes.

I am, Your obedient servant,

C. T. BAYNES,
Medical Officer of Health
(appointed 16th June, 1947)

SECTION A—Statistics and Social Conditions

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Area of the district (excluding area covered by water)	acres	8,155
Total Population at all ages at 1931 Census ...		35,300
Registrar-General's estimate of population to middle of the year		39,150
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1947	£	162,016
Product of Penny Rate	£	635
Nett Births		827
Birth Rate (live and still-births) per 1,000 of estimated population		21.72
Nett Deaths allocated to the district—		
Under one year of age		43
At all ages		413
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) ...		61.86
Death Rates (at all ages)		10.85
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Books) at end of year		9,728
Amount Paid in Poor Law Relief—		
Cannock District	£	3,834 19 0
Hednesford District	£	2,771 15 11

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Unemployment figures for the year showed very little unemployment. The quarterly figures were as follows :—

Date	MALES				FEMALES				Total	
	Age Groups	21-64	18-20	16-17	14-15	21-59	18-20	16-17		14-15
11. 3.46	.	113	5	4	—	67	3	1	—	193
17. 6.46		109	5	3	—	40	3	4	—	164
16. 9.46		103	3	3	2	39	1	—	1	152
9.12.46		122	1	1	1	43	3	5	2	178

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

The natural increase of population shown as excess of births over deaths is 397. The Registrar-General's estimate of population for the middle of the year is more by 1,090 than that of the previous year.

	Total	M	F
Live Births, legitimate	766	409	367
Live Births, illegitimate	26	9	17
Still Births, legitimate	34	20	14
Still Births, illegitimate	1	1	—
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (live and still births)			21.73
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population (live births)			20.8
Birth Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales (live births)			19.1
Birth Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales (still births)			0.53
Birth Rate per 1,000 resident population (still births) ...			0.91

	Total	M	F
Total Deaths	413	219	194
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated Population			10.85
Death Rate for England and Wales			11.5

Area comparability factors have been suspended for the time being.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still births)	Cannock	Eng. & Wales
Puerperal Sepsis	1	1.2	0.37	
Others	1	1.2	1.06	
Total	2	2.4	1.43	

INFANT MORTALITY

	Actual Deaths	Cannock Rate	England & Wales Rate
Deaths under one year of age:—			
All infants per 1,000 live births	49	61.86	43
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	44	57.44	—
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	5	192.3	—

DEATHS AT ALL AGES

					Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	
					Cannock	Eng. & Wales
Cancer	...	...	...	58	1.52	—
Measles	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.02
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.01
Influenza	...	...	...	7	0.18	0.15
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) per 1,000 live births				4	0.11	4.4

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

There were no changes in the Health Services, which functioned as in the past years.

WORK OF HEALTH VISITORS

Ante-Natal Visits :—

Primary	...	...	...	...	23
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	26
Primary visits to infants	...	...	...	...	754
Re-visits to infants	...	...	...	...	1,522
Re-visits to infants according to age :—					
Under one year	...	...	...	...	768
One to two years	...	...	...	...	626
Two to three years	...	...	618	...	
Three to four years	...	...	586	...	
Four to five years	...	...	506	...	
					1710

Ophthalmia :—

Primary	...	...	...	...	4
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	0
Special visits	...	...	...	...	110

WELFARE CENTRES

Centre	Sessions held	Primary Attendances of Infants		Total Attendances	
		Under 1 year	1—5 years	Under 1 year	1—5 years
Cannock	47	137	16	2,033	545
Hednesford	49	172	29	1,883	321
Chadsmoor	47	143	14	1,858	360
Heath Hayes	27	55	10	748	152
Totals	170	507	69	6,522	1,378

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Three Ante-Natal Clinics are now held; one at Hednesford every Thursday morning, one at Cannock and another at Chadsmoor on alternate Friday mornings.

	Hednesford	Chadsmoor	Cannock	Total
Primary Attendances ...	262	196	187	645
Re-attendances ...	898	628	712	2,238
Post-Natal ...	20	4	4	28
Total Attendances ...	1,160	824	899	2,883
No. of Sessions ...	49	26	26	101
Average No. per Session	24	31.7	34.6	28.5
No. of Cases referred to Consultant ...	21	18	27	66
No. of Ante-Natal cases referred to Consultant by Private Practitioners ...	—	—	—	—
Patients showing abnormalities ...	69	42	60	171

The Dentist holds one special session per week for expectant and nursing mothers, on Tuesday afternoons.

The Dentist reports :—

86 new patients were seen at the special clinic for mothers. 295 total visits were made, of which 66 were purely for examination and advice.

TREATMENT GIVEN

Extractions	...	...	...	...	...	236
General Anaesthetics given	...	...	...	...	...	29
Scaling	...	...	...	...	...	19
Sundry Operations	...	...	...	...	...	26
Patients fitted with dentures	...	...	...	...	...	21
Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	—
Visits for construction of Dentures and Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	107

Pre-school children referred to the Dentist by Medical Officers and Health Visitors are examined and treated if necessary, at sessions held by him on Saturday mornings.

He reports:—

20 pre-school children attended, when the following work was carried out:—

Extractions	...	...	...	...	...	17
General Anaesthetics	...	...	...	...	...	4
Other operations	...	...	...	...	...	20
Advice to parents	...	...	...	...	...	—

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION

Three children were on the register at the end of the year. A total of 23 visits were made. One new case was admitted to the register, who returned later to his parents. No adverse reports were received on any of the children or the homes visited.

BOARDED-OUT CHILDREN

Nine visits were paid to children at the request of the Public Assistance Authority, and four for the Education Authority.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Two cases were notified; one case was removed to hospital and recovered satisfactorily.

All cases needing institutional treatment are admitted to the Women's Hospital, Wolverhampton.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were two fatal cases, with a maternal mortality of 2.4, compared with 1.43 for England and Wales.

INFANT MORTALITY

The main causes of death of children under one year of age were: Premature birth, 15; Congenital malformations and birth injuries, 16; Pneumonia, 8; Gastro Enteritis, 4; Bronchitis, 2; Asphyxia, 2; Debility, 2.

The Birth Rates, Infant Mortality Rates (I.M.R.) and Maternal Mortality Rates (M.M.R.) for the past ten years were as follows:—

Year	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Birth Rates	19.1	18.02	16.6	18.4	19.3	21.44	21.15	21.38	20.55	21.72
I.M. Rates	54.3	58.9	63.5	65.9	75.4	52.0	44.27	54.23	37.91	61.86
M.M. Rates	4.1	4.3	3.0	2.16	1.27	8.75	1.27	6.14	2.61	2.4

PREMATURE CHILDREN

From the records kept of all children whose birth weight is 5½ pounds or under, there were 48 premature babies born in the area, of which 43 were born at home, three in nursing homes and two at the Public Assistance Institution. Eight of these premature babies died within the first twenty-four hours, six died within the first month, while 34 survived after the first month.

Arrangements have been made with the Walsall authority for admitting premature children, if necessary, to their hospital.

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

In conjunction with other authorities, arrangements have been made with the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare to deal with illegitimate children and their mothers. From a report received from the Association for the year ending 31st March, 1947, seven cases of unmarried mothers and their children have been dealt with. Only one girl went into a Diocesan Home, as her own home was a poor one and she already had one illegitimate child there. One baby was adopted, but unfortunately he died of pneumonia after being with the adopters for ten days. This was through no fault of the adopters, who gave the child every care. Another baby was placed for adoption by her own mother, and though legalised, is a case for supervision. Four babies are with their mothers at home, and one mother has taken her baby with her to a domestic situation.

Year	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Illeg. Births	24	14	18	30	26	29	36	35	53	26

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Two cases were notified, one of whom was admitted to hospital and the other treated at home. Both recovered without any damage to their eyes.

TREATMENT OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE

272 children were referred to special clinics and attended as follows:—Ophthalmic, 15; Orthopaedic, 218; Ear, Nose and Throat, 19, including six for operation; Dental, 20. The orthopaedic cases included those sent for actinotherapy.

WAR-TIME NURSERIES

The three Nurseries were transferred to the County Education Authority.

SECTION C—Sanitary Circumstances

WATER

The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company supply water to all dwellings, factories, etc., in the area, with the following exceptions:—

One house obtains water from a well.

Three houses are without internal water supply.

Fourteen houses obtain water from a nearby colliery.

Five samples of water were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination during the year. One sample of spring water and one sample of well water showed sewage pollution. A sample of water from a private supply was taken, and this showed evidence of heavy sewage pollution. The occupants of the premises where the water supply was found to be unsatisfactory were advised to boil the water for drinking purposes. The owners of the private supply have been consulted, and they have given instructions to the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company to lay on new water service pipes and connect up to the Company's main. This work will not be completed until the early part of 1947.

Reports are received from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company of samples taken at various depots belonging to their Company.

A report is submitted herewith of a sample taken and submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination to the Staffordshire County Council Laboratory.

CHEMICAL :—					PARTS PER
					100,000
Total Solid Matter dried at 212°F ...	...	...	...	...	32.5
Free and Saline Ammonia ...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid ...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitric Nitrogen ...	...	...	...	...	0.59
Chlorine ...	...	...	...	...	3.3
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F ...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Appearance ...	...	...	...	...	Clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination ...	...	...	...	...	None
pH Value ...	...	...	...	...	7.4
Hardness before Boiling ...	...	...	...	...	13.80°
Hardness after Boiling ...	...	...	...	...	7.21°
Temporary Hardness ...	...	...	...	...	6.59°

BACTERIOLOGICAL :—

COUNT. On nutrient agar after 48 hours incubation at 37°C ...	7 colonies per ml.
On nutrient agar after 72 hours incubation at 20—22°C ...	13 colonies per ml.
COLI AREOGENES CONTENT (presumptive coli) after 48 hours incubation at 37°C	Nil per 100 ml.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Nineteen samples of river water were submitted for chemical analysis, and only one sample proved unsatisfactory.

Periodical inspections are made of all streams and water-courses in the area.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

	End of 1945.	End of 1946
Water Closets ...	10,740	10,905
Waste Water Closets ...	14	—
Dustbins ...	9,488	9,612
Privies ...	5	3
Privy Ashpits ...	2	1
Privy Pans ...	156	157
Cesspools ...	180	184

OFFICES

Thirty-two Offices were inspected, the sanitary accommodation of which were found to be satisfactory.

CAMPING SITES

There are two camping sites within the area. One is situated at Beaudesert Park and the other at Hayfield Hill, Cannock Wood.

These camping sites were found to be clean and satisfactory, with a satisfactory water supply and sanitary accommodation.

SCABIES AND VERMINOUS PERSONS

All cases of scabies or verminous persons found by routine inspections at schools, home visiting by Health Visitors and Sanitary Inspectors, or by reports from individual persons, were treated at home after advice regarding treatment or by members of the staff at the cleansing stations at Cannock, Chadsmoor and Hednesford. 108 cases were treated with Benzyl Benzoate for scabies. Those found infested with lice were treated by cleansing and the application of lethane oil. Infested houses and clothing were dealt with by the staff of the Sanitary Department as reported in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

1.—THE NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS

Inspection of Dwelling Houses :—

(1) Housing Inspections	...	...	...	62
(2) District Inspections	...	...	...	5607
Inspection of Bakehouses	...	...	...	168
„ „ Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	52
„ „ Cowsheds	...	...	...	262
„ „ Dairies	...	...	...	233
„ „ Milk Shops	...	...	...	45
„ „ Milk Bars	...	...	...	12
„ „ Milk Floats	...	...	...	25
„ „ Restaurant Kitchens	...	...	...	15
„ „ Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	22
„ „ Shops	...	...	...	210
„ „ Meat Shops	...	...	...	951
„ „ Grocers Shops	...	...	...	247

Inspection of Meat Distribution Centre	...	...	...	...	...	...	254
„ „ Markets	...	...	...	...	...	...	240
„ „ Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	182
„ „ Knacker's Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
„ „ School Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
„ „ Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
„ „ Works for abatement of nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	2496
„ „ Works for abatement of housing repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	153
„ „ Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	194
„ „ Complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	178
„ „ Water Courses	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
„ „ Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
„ „ Living Vans	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
„ „ Sewage Disposal Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
„ „ Pit-head Baths	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
„ „ Spoilbanks	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
„ „ Canal Boats—Wharves	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
„ „ Camping Grounds	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
„ „ Mortuaries	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
„ „ Making-up Rooms (Food)	...	...	...	...	...	...	244
„ „ Ministry of Food Depots	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
„ „ Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
„ „ Premises under Rats & Mice Destruction Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	563
„ „ Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	109
„ „ Meat Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	301
„ „ Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	32

2.—THE NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	627
Statutory, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 44	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ „ „ „ „ „ 93	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
„ Housing Act, 1936, Section 66	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48

3.—RESULTS OF SERVICE

Number of Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	695
Notices not complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	36

SECTION D—Housing

24 Houses were built by private enterprise.
100 Temporary Bungalows were erected.

FITNESS OF HOUSES

Sixty-two houses were inspected, 51 of which were damp, two dirty and one overcrowded.

The number of persons per house was 4.13, with 1.09 rooms per person, or 256 persons to 280 rooms (115 living rooms and 165 sleeping rooms).

Further statistics are given in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

OVERCROWDING

No. of cases on books at end of year ...	...	...	...	...	59
No. of cases dealt with ...	...	...	...	...	113
No. of overcrowded cases abated—					
From Council houses ...	...	...	...	...	10
From Private houses ...	...	...	...	...	44
No. of new cases reported to the Medical Officer of Health during 1946 ...	...	...	...	...	58

SECTION E—Inspection and Supervision of Food

Details are given in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

SECTION F—Infectious Diseases

DIPHTHERIA

Eighteen cases were notified, compared with 20 in the previous year and 42 in 1944.

Eighteen cases of clinical diphtheria were removed to hospital.

During the year 501 children under five and 52 children between five and fifteen were immunised. 87 children immunised when they were about one year old received one injection before starting school.

SCARLET FEVER

Sixty cases were notified, compared with 49 in the previous year. 27 were removed to hospital and there were no fatal cases.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS

One case was notified, a boy, who was removed to hospital.

ENTERIC FEVER

No cases of enteric fever were notified.

PNEUMONIA

Twelve cases of primary pneumonia were notified. There were 28 deaths from all types of pneumonia.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

Measles were prevalent in the latter part of the year. 199 cases of Measles were notified, with no fatal cases.

There were 41 cases of Whooping Cough, with none fatal.

CANCER

There were 58 deaths from Cancer, three more than in the previous year.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	NEW CASES NOTIFIED				Total	DEATHS				Total
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
0—1	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5	1	...	2	1	4	...	...	...	2	2
5—15	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
15—25	3	5	...	1	9	1	2	...	...	3
25—35	3	4	...	1	8	1	5	...	...	6
35—45	2	1	...	...	3	...	1	...	...	1
45—55	2	...	...	...	2	2	1	...	..	3
55—65	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
65 & up	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Total	14	11	2	3	30	4	9	...	2	15

There were 13 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, six less than in the previous year, and two from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, a decrease of two over the previous year. Three less male pulmonary but three more females were notified than in the previous year, while there were three less male and two more female non-pulmonary cases.

The Health Visitors paid 34 primary and 229 re-visits.

Notices of admission to Institutions were received as follows ;

Groundslow Sanatorium	...	...	...	2
Prestwood Sanatorium	...	...	...	2
Himley Sanatorium	...	...	...	2
Standon Hall Sanatorium	...	...	...	6
The Forelands, Bromsgrove	...	...	...	1

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or the Public Health Act, 1936.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1946

	Males	Females
1. Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fever ...	—	—
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever ...	—	—
4. Whooping Cough ...	—	—
5. Diphtheria ...	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	4	9
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	—	2
8. Syphilitic ...	—	1
9. Influenza ...	5	2
10. Measles ...	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	—	—
12. Acute Infective Encephalitis ...	—	—
13. Cancer of Buc. Cav. and Oesoph (M)		
Uterus (F) ...	2	8
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	5	7
15. Cancer of Breast ...	—	4
16. Cancer of all other sites ...	19	13
17. Diabetes ...	—	4
18. Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ...	16	10
19. Heart Disease ...	41	30
20. Other disease of Circ. System ...	15	15
21. Bronchitis ...	14	14
22. Pneumonia ...	16	12
23. Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	2
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	—	2
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	1	3

26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	1	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	4	3
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	5	2
29.	Puerperal and Post-Abort. Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	1
30.	Other Maternal causes	...	...	...	...	—	1
31.	Premature Births	...	...	...	...	12	3
32.	Congenital Malformation, birth inj., infant dis.	...	...	...	...	12	4
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	5	4
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	3	1
35.	Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	7	4
36.	All other causes	...	...	...	...	31	32
Totals						219	194

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

*To the Chairman and Members of the Cannock Urban
District Council*

Public Health Department,
Church Street,
Cannock, Staffs.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I herewith submit to you a report of the work performed by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1946.

NUISANCES AND OTHER MATTERS DEALT WITH

Foul drains, water closets, cesspools, sinks, urinals ...	...	86
Insufficient water closets and drains ...	...	207
Accumulations of manure and other offensive matter ...	...	40
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance ...	...	108
Dirty dwelling houses ...	...	22
Dwelling houses needing repairs ...	...	446
Dwelling houses overcrowded ...	...	58
Number of nuisances and other matters reported during the year ...	...	930
Number of notices served ...	...	627
Number of Statutory Notices served under Section 93, P.H.A., 1936 ...	...	59
Number of Statutory Notices served under Section 44, P.H.A., 1936 ...	...	7
Number of Statutory Notices served under Section 66, P.H.A., 1936 ...	...	48

PRINCIPAL STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT

- 14 Water Closets substituted for 14 Waste Water Closets.
- 1 Water Closet substituted for 1 privy.
- 1 Pail Closet substituted for 1 privy.
- 1 Privy dispensed with.
- 946 Dustbins substituted for worn-out dustbins.
- 167 Water Closets put in order.
- 68 New Water Closet pans.
- 56 New Water Closet seats.
- 51 New Water Closet flushing cisterns.
- 42 Water Closet flushing cisterns repaired.
- 50 Choked drains opened.
- 8 Choked Water Closets opened.
- 150 yards of new drains laid on nine premises.
- 25 Drains repaired.
- 1 Cesspool reconstructed.
- 1 New cover to cesspool.
- 3 Drains ventilated.
- 12 Drain ventilating shafts repaired.
- 6 New gullies provided.
- 6 New grids provided to gullies.
- 13 New inspection chamber covers provided.
- 2 New inspection chambers.
- 4 Inspection chambers rebuilt.
- 8 New water cisterns provided.
- 8 Water cisterns repaired.

CESSPOOLS

A survey has been made of all the premises which are not drained to a sewer, and there are 184 cesspools in existence. These, and the number, are situated in the following wards:—

Bridgtown	...	...	...	...	15
Cannock	...	...	...	...	24
Chadsmoor	...	...	...	...	4
Hednesford	...	...	...	...	22
Heath Hayes	...	...	...	...	7
Littleworth	...	...	...	...	112

184

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The sanitary state of the area in those parts where sewers are provided is very satisfactory. All waste water closets have now been converted to fresh water closets. There are only three privies left, and two of these are on premises which have been dealt with by way of Slum Clearance. The pail closets and chemical closets are in those areas where no sewers exist.

Dustbins have been difficult to obtain, and when new ones have been obtained they have been used to replace badly worn-out bins. There are a few places where the tenants mis-use the dustbins by placing garden refuse, hot ashes and wet matter in the bins. A circular is delivered with the bin advising tenants what the bin is for.

PUBLIC SANITARY CONVENIENCES

These premises are much the same as mentioned in my previous report. From 9th December, 1946, the control of these premises was placed, by the Public Health Committee, under my control. A special report has been submitted to the Committee on the present state of each convenience, and it is recommended that improvements shall be carried out at an early date.

SCHOOL SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The sanitary accommodation at every school in the area has been inspected, and a report has been submitted to the Divisional Executive Officer of the Education Authority.

A considerable amount of work in the way of alterations and repairs has been carried out, as will be seen in the following statement:—

IMPROVEMENTS, 1946

Water Closets—

Cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	35
New doors	...	...	...	1
Doors repaired	...	...	...	2
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	4
Spouting repaired	...	...	...	1
New pedestal pans	...	...	...	3
New seats to pedestal pans	...	...	...	12
New flushing cisterns	...	...	...	2
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	10
Flush pipes repaired	...	...	...	3
Burst water service pipes repaired	...	...	...	1

Urinals—

Floors repaired	1
Walls repaired	3
Door repaired	1
Flushing cisterns repaired	2

Washing Accommodation—

Taps repaired	13
Burst water service pipe repaired	1

Cloakrooms—

Dangerous step removed	1
New step provided	1

Drainage—

Obstructed drain cleared	1
New inspection chamber cover	1

General—

Heating apparatus repaired	1
-----------------------------------	---

RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACTS 1920 TO 1939

SECTION 2 (2) OF ACT, 1920

Twelve applications were received from tenants under the above-mentioned Acts, and each case was considered in a report submitted and eight certificates were granted.

HOUSES IMPROVED

Roofs repaired	139
Houses re-spouted	76
Houses repointed or cemented	42
Walls and ceilings repaired	332
Quarry, brick and concrete floors repaired	14
New firegrates fitted or repaired	55
New wood floors and wood floors repaired	51
New sub-floor ventilators fixed	9
Windows repaired, sashcords and fasteners fitted	217
Doors repaired	36
Handrails fixed	17
Chimneys repaired	18
New sinks fitted or repaired	42
Coppers and fireboxes repaired	42
Yard paving repaired	16
Burst water service pipes repaired	52

HOUSING STATISTICS

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	455
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	1365
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	62
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	217
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	11
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	444

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	345
--	-----

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	4
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :	
(a) By owners	4
(b) By local authority in default of owners	0
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	43

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—							
(a)	By owners	...	...	...	...	...	22
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	0
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—							
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	0
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	15
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.							
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	1
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	0

UNFIT HOUSES

Number Demolished—

Individual Unfits	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Clearance Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Voluntary	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Situation of Houses Demolished—

Bridgtown Ward :

House, Lichfield Road, Leacroft Voluntary

Cannock Ward :

50 Walsall Road, Cannock Voluntary
1 and 3 Caxton Street, Cannock Voluntary
29 Mill Street, Cannock Clearance Area

Hednesford Ward :

2 to 18 Mount Street, Hednesford Clearance Area
139 to 147 Station Road, Hednesford ... Clearance Area

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919 INFESTATION ORDER, 1943

During the year 1946 the following results were obtained by our Rodent Operator :—

Poison baits laid	...	...	...	...	...	1388
Good poison takes	...	...	...	...	...	309
Small poison takes	...	...	...	...	...	625
Dead rats found	...	...	...	...	...	436
Estimated kill	...	...	...	...	...	11640
Premises dealt with by Cymag and Rockets	...	...	...	...	...	33
Rats killed	...	...	...	...	...	216

123 manholes were treated, 4 small takes and 7 good takes were found. 112 manholes were clear.

SURVEY

The survey of the whole area is nearing completion, and I am glad to report that this class of work is of utmost value to all Sanitary Inspectors and Rodent Officers. It is the means of finding out where rats are to be found and where we would never consider that there was any infestation whatsoever.

In this way we have dealt with 23 dwelling houses, 65 business premises, 1 gas works, 1 miners' hostel and 23 Council premises.

JOINT ACTION

One watercourse of a considerable length was dealt with in co operation with an adjoining authority, and in this case the results of our joint action was considered very satisfactory.

AGRICULTURAL PREMISES AND LANDS

The work of dealing with these premises has only recently been transferred from the County War Agricultural Executive Committee to our Authority.

Ten farms have been inspected and on two of the farms major infestations of rats were found; these were immediately dealt with and good results were obtained.

LIVING VANS AND TENTS

Inspections were made and a report submitted to the Public Health Committee on the conditions of the living vans and tents in the area. It was found that there was no nuisance at any of these premises, and the Public Health Committee have deferred consideration on the matter to a later date.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Dec., 1946

Licenced Slaughterhouses	25
Visits to Meat Shops	951

TOTAL—UNSOUND FOOD

FOOD CONSUMED 1902						Weight lbs.
Bovines—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	25
Bovines—Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	170
Pigs—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	32
Pigs—Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	759
Other Foods	...	...	...	...	...	5607
Total						6593
Tons						Cwts.
2						18
Qrs.						lbs.
3						13

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND BUTCHERS' SHOPS

The number of slaughterhouses, butchers' shops and meat stalls in the area are as follows :—

Slaughterhouses	25
Butchers' Shops	47
Meat Stalls	9

SLAUGHTERHOUSES, MEAT SHOPS AND MEAT VANS

The meat supply for this area is sent from the Government Slaughterhouse at Walsall to a Meat Distribution Centre in Market Hall Street, Cannock. All meat and offals which are sent here are inspected on arrival, and it has been necessary on certain occasions to condemn certain offals.

None of the slaughterhouses in the area have been used for the slaughter of animals for human consumption since January, 1940, with the exception of slaughter of pigs for private owners in a few of the slaughterhouses.

Meat shops in the area are the same as last year; these premises have been visited weekly and they have been found to be in a very clean and tidy condition. All making-up rooms are inspected, also restaurant kitchens and other premises where food is prepared for sale, and these have been found to be in a satisfactory condition.

The meat stalls on the market places at Cannock and Hednesford are visited each market day; these are found to be in a satisfactory condition. No complaints have been received during the year as regards cleanliness.

TABLE FROM CIRCULAR No. 1650

No records are kept in regard to this circular, because no slaughterhouses are used for the slaughter of animals intended for sale for human consumption.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

Six new licences were granted to persons employed in the meat trade, and 49 licences were renewed during the year for persons to stun animals intended for human consumption.

KNACKER'S YARD

These premises are situated in the Bridgtown Ward and are on the very extreme border of our district.

These premises are visited very frequently and have been found to be kept in a very clean and satisfactory condition.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE

There is only one Common Lodging House in the area. These premises are always found to be very clean.

Number of Visits 52

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS AND UNDER REGULAR INSPECTION

Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Purveyors of milk from other districts selling milk in this area								40
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Meat Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Mortuaries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Knackers' Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Common Lodging House	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89

CANAL BOATS

During the year two canal boats were inspected. These two boats had a population of seven adults and five children. One of the boats was in a satisfactory condition; one boat needed painting. A notice was served on the owner of the boat.

The canal boats passing through this area on the canals chiefly carry coal from the local collieries.

MOTOR AMBULANCES

During the year 1,102 cases of sickness or accidents were removed to hospital; the number of miles registered for these journeys was 23,964, or 21.74 miles per journey.

On 141 occasions both ambulances were out at the same time.

During the year the ambulances removed 31 cases for other authorities.

FISH FRIERS

There are 55 fish friers in this area. These premises were visited frequently and they were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition. Each shop has a modern or up-to-date stove.

DISINFESTATION

Number of Council houses found to be infested	...	7
Number of Council houses disinfested	...	7
Number of other houses found to be infested	...	12
Number of other houses disinfested	...	12

All these houses have been treated with an insecticidal fluid, and all bedding and soft furnishings from these houses were dealt with by means of steam disinfection. The whole of the work was carried out by the staff of the Public Health (Sanitary) Department.

STEAM DISINFECTOR

The steam disinfector at the Council's depot was used for disinfecting 646 articles.

Number of days disinfector in use ... 54

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

ICES AND ICE-CREAM

I herewith submit a detailed statement of the number of samples taken which were submitted for bacteriological examination. These samples were taken previous to the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations.

These premises are visited frequently, and it has been necessary to ask certain occupiers of these premises to carry out improvements. Some of these improvements have been carried out, and this has brought the premises up to a better standard.

Total number of samples taken	13
Total number taken from premises registered by the Urban District Council for manufacture and sale	11
Total number taken from premises registered by the Urban District Council for sale only	2
Total number of samples manufactured by the "Hot-mix" method	10
Total number of samples manufactured by the "Cold-mix" method	3

Bacteriological Count	Hot Mix	Cold Mix
Total Counts under 200,000 organisms per ml.	3	1
Total Counts over 200,000 organisms per ml.	7	2
Bacillus Coli—		
B. Coli absent from 1 c.c.	1	0
B. Coli present in 1 c.c.	0	0
B. Coli present in 0.1 c.c.	3	0
B. Coli present in 0.01 c.c.	0	0
B. Coli present in 0.001 c.c.	6	3

VINEGAR

Two samples of vinegar were taken and submitted for bacteriological and chemical analysis.

The Bacteriologist's report states one sample was "Sterile"; the other sample contained certain organisms which were usually present in dust. The Public Analyst's report states: "These samples were both non-brewed vinegar containing more than the minimum amount of Acetic Acid required by the Regulations for genuine vinegars" (viz., 4%).

MILK

There are 28 registered Milk Producers on the Register; these are set out in the following table:—

Wholesalers	14
Wholesalers and Retailers	6
Retailers	8

The number of milking cows kept is 336, or an average of 12 cows per farm. These 28 milk producers consist of one Tuberculin Tested producer; 13 producers with Accredited licences, and 14 producers of ordinary raw milk. There are 59 dairies and milk shops in this area, also 40 retail producers of milk who deliver milk in this area but whose premises are outside this area.

During the year the number of samples of milk taken and submitted for bacteriological examination are as follows :—

Producers in the area	147
Retailers in the area	75
Retailers from outside the area	29

The results of the examination of these samples were as follows :—

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Producers in the area	106	41
Retailers in the area	52	23
Retailers from outside the area	24	5

Following reports on unsatisfactory samples, visits are made to the producers in our own area during the hours of milking, which is usually during the early hours of the day or late afternoon. This is done to observe the methods used in the production and the handling of the milk; also to ascertain the condition of the cowsheds and the cows before milking takes place.

The samples taken at the time of milking are usually : One sample from the cow, one from the milking pail, one from the cooler and one direct from the churn. This has been the means, in many cases, of us finding out where milk has become unsatisfactory. When this has been found it is pointed out to the farmer and he is asked to co-operate and make improvements in his methods.

Twelve samples of churn washings were taken where samples of milk had proved to be unsatisfactory, and two of these samples proved to be unsatisfactory. This was probably due to insufficient sterilisation.

One new cowkeeper has been added to the register, and the cowshed was improved and brought up to a reasonable standard.

The milk producers in the area are given every encouragement and help on the methods and ways to be used in the production of clean milk.

In all cases where milk is found to be unsatisfactory and the same is produced outside our own area, a letter and a copy of the report is sent to the Sanitary Inspector in whose district the milk was produced.

Of the 23 unsatisfactory samples of milk taken from Retailers, the milk from 16 samples was produced outside the area.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936

The following licences have been granted to sell the under-mentioned designated milks :—

Tuberculin Tested	13
Accredited	1
Pasteurised	3

SCHOOL MILK SUPPLY

The milk supplied to the schools in this area is known as pasteurised milk, and is obtained from a firm of milk contractors whose dairy is outside this area.

Sixty samples of milk were taken during the year, in course of delivery, and same were submitted for bacteriological examination on the same morning as they were taken. Eighteen of these samples were found to be unsatisfactory, and six samples had a large bacteriological count, and in one sample there was both a large bacteriological count and certain coliform organisms. Twelve samples failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test, but all the samples passed the Phosphatase Test.

A copy of the Bacteriologist's report is sent in each case to the contractors and to the licensing authority who granted the principal licence.

SHOPS ACTS, 1919 TO 1938

Visits have been made to the various shops in the area, and most of the shops are understaffed. The sanitary and washing facilities were found to be satisfactory. Sunday trading is almost at a standstill owing to food rationing; the chief trade on Sundays appeared to be the selling of sweets.

The closing of shops at a much earlier hour than in pre-war days is most beneficial to shopkeepers and their assistants, and it is found that the public are now getting used to the new hours and from observations made very few contraventions of the Shops Act have been found.

OFFICES

These premises are visited periodically and they are found to be in a clean and tidy condition, no overcrowding has been observed, lighting both natural and artificial has been found to be satisfactory.

Sanitary accommodation and washing facilities were found to be clean and satisfactory. Thirty-two visits were made.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

During the year ten new factories were commenced in the area; there are now 89 factories on the Register of Factories.

These premises are visited frequently and the washing facilities and sanitary accommodation are kept in a fairly clean condition. It was necessary to call the attention of five occupiers of factories to the question of insufficient sanitary accommodation. Improvements were carried out at factories, and 182 visits were made.

OUTWORKERS

One list of Outworkers was received, and only one person was employed at home making toys. This dwelling house was visited and was found to be clean and satisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES

Visits have been made to these premises and the following matters were reported upon and dealt with.

Walls and ceilings of Bakeshouses cleansed	...	19
Walls and ceilings of Rest Rooms cleansed	...	3
New bakehouses erected	... ..	1
Bakehouses enlarged	... ..	1
New ovens provided	... ..	2
Spouting repaired	... ..	1
Accumulations of refuse removed	... ..	6
Floors cleansed	... ..	1
Apparatus cleansed	... ..	1
Doors repaired	... ..	1
Water closets cleansed	... ..	7
Water closet flushing cisterns repaired	... ..	2
Water closet flush pipes repaired	... ..	1
Water closet seats provided	... ..	1
Towels, soap and hot water provided	... ..	1
Tap repaired	... ..	1

SPOILBANKS

Inspections have been made at the various spoilbanks of the Collieries in the area, and at two of these spoilbanks the Colliery Companies adopted a certain method of spraying to overcome the nuisances. This spraying is carried out by small fine sprays, and the spraying is carried out continually throughout the 24 hours of each day, and I am glad to say that in these two cases the nuisances complained of are now abated.

There are still two spoilbanks which are causing nuisances in the area, and in these cases the facts have been reported to the Public Health Committee and they have asked that steps shall be taken for the abatement of these nuisances, but it is found that one of the great difficulties is obtaining the motors and pumps for pumping water to the sprays. In one case notice of delivery of a pump is a question of twelve months.

I can only repeat what I said in my report for 1945, that it is a pity that some other method could not be adopted for disposing of this waste matter instead of spoiling the countryside with huge deposits of waste material.

CONCLUSION

I am glad to report that the work in the Public Health Department has proceeded in a very satisfactory manner during the year. The work has considerably increased and the sanitary state of the district is considerably improved. The inspection of food premises has come in for a considerable amount of supervision, and the inspection of dairies and cowsheds has taken up a considerable amount of the Sanitary Inspectors' time, which, in my opinion, is time well spent in seeing that we get a clean milk supply.

I desire to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, also to the other Members of the Council who are not members of the Public Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health, Chief Officials and to the staff of the Public Health Department for the help and support that they have given me during the past year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient servant,

FRED TURNER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector

